



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

A journal from our legation in Belgium. By Hugh Gibson, secretary of the American legation, Brussels. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page and company, 1917. 362 p. \$2.50)

This is one of the most interesting of the flood of books which the war has yet produced. The author was secretary of the American legation in Belgium during the first three years of the war and his opportunity for observing the conduct of the Germans was such as came to few other foreigners in the country. He may therefore be described as an official witness of the rape of Belgium. His book is not a systematic treatise but rather a diary written at odd moments from day to day as the events which he describes took place. His story, therefore, consists of the impressions and observations of a man, who at the time was a neutral, who sought to describe what he saw without bias or prejudice. As such his testimony is entitled to high weight in the "supreme court of civilization" before which the Germans will be tried. After the outbreak of the war the American legation took over the affairs of Great Britain and Germany in Belgium and Mr. Gibson came in contact almost daily with the German authorities. From time to time he visited various parts of the country, conversed with the Germans and Belgians, heard the stories of both sides and saw with his own eyes burned and ruined towns, wrecked cathedrals, devastated districts, and other evidences of German ruthlessness. He was at Antwerp at the time of the aerial raid in September, 1914, and saw the ruined buildings and the dead and maimed bodies which were left in its wake. He visited Louvain shortly after its partial destruction and recorded in his diary that his conversations with the people who were there when the trouble began "only served to strengthen the impression that the whole affair was part of a cold-blooded and calculated plan to terrorize the civilian population." He talked with inhabitants of Tamines and was told that over 600 people were shot there. He tells of his fruitless efforts to save the life of Miss Cavell, how she was brutally hurried to her death, how she was denied the benefit of counsel until she was formally arraigned at the bar and how the German military authorities in spite of their repeated promises to the American legation systematically concealed from the American minister all information in regard to the trial, conviction, and execution. All these and other atrocities committed by the Germans—how they

murdered innocent civilians, burned and pillaged Belgian towns, exploited the country by means of requisitions, fines, and contributions, terrorized the population and rode rough-shod over the established laws of war are told in a plain straightforward manner, without a trace of bias or prejudice. Mr. Gibson readily admits, as many fair-minded Belgians themselves admit, that there were occasional instances of "sniping" by the inhabitants; but they were only isolated cases and constituted no justification for the terrible retribution that was again and again meted out to the communities in which such acts were committed. The whole story constitutes a vivid and damning indictment against German policy in Belgium, the truth of which none but a very incredulous person will ever deny.

JAMES W. GARNER

Diary of a nation. The war and how we got into it. By Edward S. Martin of "Life." (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page and company, 1917. 407 p. \$1.50 net)

Editorial utterances are, as a rule, not worthy of republication. They are often the product of a momentary mood; they are frequently based on slight information; and their interest usually disappears when the problem under discussion enters upon a new phase. And yet, in defiance of this fact, Mr. Edward S. Martin has ventured to publish an entire volume of editorials ranging over a period of nearly three years; and the reviewer believes that they will be read with as much pleasure now as on the day when they first appeared.

It is not possible to review a volume of this sort; all that can be done, and all that need be done, is to call attention to its existence. Nor does it seem necessary to catalog its many qualities, least of all to mention the author's kindly humor and biting wit, for the humor of *Life* is far more widely known and appreciated than many good people are willing to admit. It surely is a pleasure to have the opportunity to read in consecutive order all the delightful things that Mr. Martin has found to say during the past three years about the kaiser, Mr. Roosevelt, Josephus Daniels, Mr. Bryan, the pro-Germans, the pacifists, and all the other prominent actors in the farces and tragedies of contemporary life. The reader will also be impressed with the faithful manner in which these editorials reflect the changing moods and varying emotions of the American people during the fateful months when German aggression was forcing us into war; and the volume is therefore not improperly named *The diary of a nation*.

L. M. L.